

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

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Border Patrol Seizes Marijuana at Checkpoint

Canine Alerts to Narcotics in Hidden Compartments

Indio, Calif. —Agents of the Border Patrol, a division of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), seized more than 135 pounds of marijuana with an estimated value of over \$108,000 at the Indio Station's Immigration Checkpoint near Westmorland, California.

Yesterday, at approximately 11:00 p.m., a 1991 Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) approached the Highway 86 immigration checkpoint. The male driver, a 39-year-old Mexican citizen and permanent resident from El Centro, Calif., and four other passengers, drove into the primary inspection area. The vehicle was referred to the secondary inspection area after a canine, conducting a free-air inspection of the exterior of the SUV, alerted positively to the presence of narcotics or human cargo.

The driver consented to a search of the vehicle and another canine sniff was conducted. Again the canine alerted positively to the interior and exterior of the vehicle. After a closer inspection of the vehicle, agents discovered 25 cellophane wrapped packages concealed in a roof compartment and rear side panels of the vehicle. The packages contained a green leafy substance that tested positive for marijuana.

The marijuana, driver, passengers and vehicle were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

So far this fiscal year, Border Patrol agents of the El Centro Sector have seized 5,851.95 pounds of marijuana with a total value of \$4,681,565.39.

The Border Patrol is a division of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, a new agency within the Department of Homeland Security responsible for managing and securing our Nation's borders.

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